

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL791137172US

Applicant : Ross Halgren, et al.
Application No. : N/A
Filed : June 12, 2001
Title : COMMUNICATION NETWORK
Docket No. : 45433/DBP/C664

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
June 12, 2001

Commissioner:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claim 8. Pending claims 1 to 20 follow.

1. A network node for use in a WDM communications network, the network node comprising:

- a first network interface unit arranged, in use, to demultiplex an incoming WDM optical signal and to convert the incoming WDM optical signal into a plurality of electrical channel signals,
- a regeneration unit for regenerating the electrical channel signals utilising at least 2R regeneration,
- a second network interface unit arranged, in use, to convert and multiplex at least one of the electrical channel signals into an outgoing WDM optical signal, and
- a secondary interface unit arranged, in use, to convert at least one of the electrical channel signals into an optical signal and to drop the optical signal at the network node.

2. A network node as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary interface unit is further arranged, in use, to receive at least one single wavelength optical signal and to convert it into a corresponding electrical signal, and the second network interface unit is further arranged to convert and multiplex the corresponding electrical signal into the outgoing WDM optical signal.